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(54) Anchoring sheeting

(57) A sheet, e.g. a large plastics sheet covering a silage pit, is anchored by means of water-filled tubes 14, 16. Thus, lay-flat tubing from a reel is laid around and across the sheet 12. All one end of each length is sealed (18, 20). Water is passed in through the other end, which is then sealed, thus converting each length of tube to a heavy weight serving to anchor the sheet.

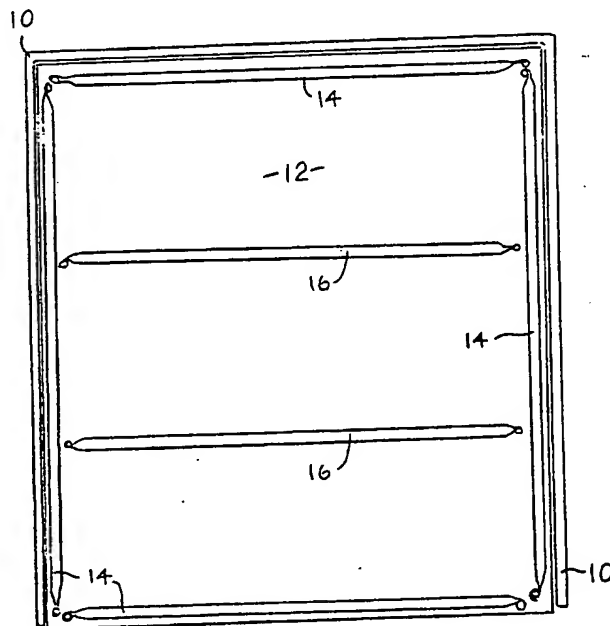


Fig 1

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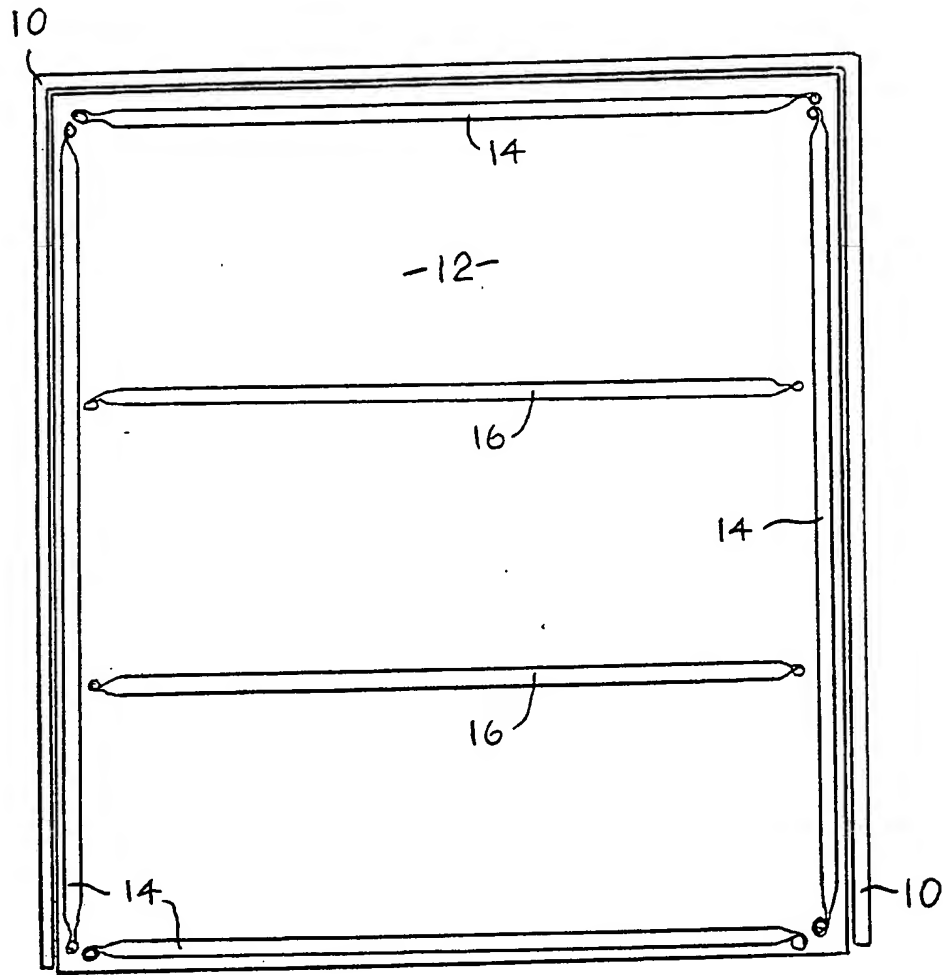


Fig 1

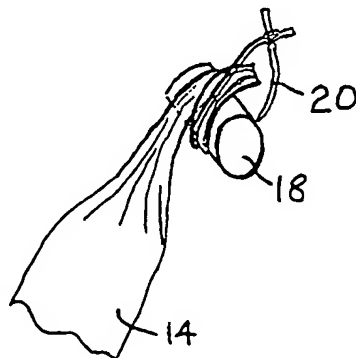


Fig 2

ANCHORING SHEETING

The present invention relates to the anchoring of sheeting, particularly plastics sheeting for agricultural purposes such as covering silage pits and straw ricks. In 5 different aspects the invention relates to a method of anchoring sheeting, a cover sheet assembly, and a silage pit.

It is normal for a silage pit to be covered with a large sheet of plastic. Conventionally this is held in 10 place by a large number of old tyres. Such an anchorage is quite inconvenient, being difficult to put in place and remove, and being unsightly.

In one aspect, the present invention provides a method of anchoring sheeting comprising laying tubing on the 15 sheeting so as to extend across the sheeting and/or adjacent one or more edges thereof; filling the tubing with water; and sealing the ends. The tubing is of such a gauge that the water-filled tubing provides a sufficient weight to hold the sheeting in place. The tubing will generally 20 be in several pieces which are sealed and filled individually.

In a second aspect, the invention provides a cover sheet assembly comprising a cover sheet and tubing located on the sheet so as to extend across the sheet and/or 25 adjacent one or more edges thereof; the tubing being fillable with water to anchor the sheet.

In a third aspect the invention provides a silage pit

comprising means defining a pit; silage material in the pit; and a cover sheet assembly as defined above.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the accompanying 5 drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a silage pit including a cover sheet assembly embodying the present invention; and Fig. 2 is a schematic view on a larger scale showing an end seal.

10 The illustrated silage pit is defined by a silage wall around three sides of the rectangular pit. The sides are typically of length 10-20m. The silage material is contained therein, and covered by a rectangular plastic sheet 12, which fits quite closely within the wall. 15 Adjacent each of the four edges, there is a length of plastics tubing 14. Two further lengths 16 extend transversely across intermediate regions.

Each of the six lengths of tubing 14, 16 has been cut from a reel which originally contained 75 metres of lay- 20 flat plastics tubing. Initially, one end of each length of tubing was sealed, suitably by the method shown in Fig. 2. That is, an end portion is formed into a ribbon and wound around a core 18 (which may be a cylindrical member of diameter about 5cm). A tensioning strap 20 is then engaged 25 about the tubing on the core, to clamp it in place. The lengths of tubing are then filled with water. This requires merely an ordinary water supply and a hose. The

user goes to a free end of a length of tubing, raises that end a little distance (e.g. 40-60cm) off the ground, passes a hose a short way in (which confers rigidity), and passes water in through the hose, until the tubing is substantially full. The hose is then withdrawn, and the end of the tubing is then sealed as previously described.

If necessary, e.g. because the sheeting slopes, the tubing may be secured in place, e.g. using adhesive "silage tape".

10      Suitable tubing is of diameter 15-20cm. It is made of thin plastics film, e.g. polyethylene or polypropylene. The thickness should generally be greater than 500 gauge (125 $\mu$ m). It is preferably 1000 gauge (250 $\mu$ m) for 15cm tubing; and 1500 gauge (375 $\mu$ m) for 20cm tubing.

CLAIMS:

1. A method of anchoring sheeting comprising laying tubing on the sheeting so as to extend across the sheeting and/or adjacent one or more edges thereof; filling the tubing with water; and sealing the ends.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the tubing is lay-flat tubing.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the tubing, in one or more lengths, extends substantially around the periphery of the sheeting.
4. A method according to any preceding claim wherein an end of the tubing is sealed by winding an end portion of the tube around a core and engaging a tensioned band about it.
5. A method according to any preceding claim including the step of securing the tubing to the sheeting with adhesive tape.
6. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the sheeting is located over a silage pit.
7. A method of anchoring sheeting substantially as herein described.
8. A cover sheet assembly comprising a cover sheet and tubing located on the sheet so as to extend across the sheet and/or adjacent one or more edges thereof; the tubing being fillable with water to anchor the sheet.
9. A cover sheet assembly according to claim 8 wherein the tubing, in one or more lengths, extends substantially

around the periphery of the sheet.

10. A cover sheet assembly according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the tubing is secured to the sheet.

11. A cover sheet assembly substantially as described and 5 illustrated herein.

12. A silage pit comprising means defining a pit; silage material in the pit; and a cover sheet assembly according to any of claims 8 to 11 disposed on the silage material.